



INL employees (from left) Ernest Fossum, Kerwin Hassing, Don Lewis and Larry Duncan received a U.S. Department of Energy award for development of INL's \$33 million Energy Savings Performance Contract.

INL group earns energy and water efficiency award

by [John Howze](#), *INL Communications & Public Affairs*

Four INL employees have received a national Department of Energy honor for their contributions to conservation at Idaho National Laboratory. Facilities & Site Services employees Larry Duncan, Ernest Fossum and Kerwin Hassing, along with MFC Nuclear Operations employee Don Lewis, were nominated by the federal department for the prestigious 2008 Transformational Energy Action Management (TEAM) Award for Special Achievement.

The award recognizes their contribution toward eliminating the use of 600,000 gallons of fuel oil per year at INL through the Energy Savings Project Contract (ESPC) announced last July.

"This is a very high honor and it came as a result of some very difficult work at the laboratory," Facilities & Site Services Director Dwayne Coburn said. "The ESPC relies on private-sector funding to modernize our infrastructure at the Materials & Fuels Complex. The \$33 million project will take several years to complete. When it is done, we will have reduced carbon dioxide emissions by 12 million pounds annually and eliminated the environmental concerns posed by use of petroleum-fired boilers. Facility upgrades will include energy-efficient lighting, heating systems and building controls across MFC."

INL was the first laboratory in the DOE complex to sign such a contract. Since that time, others have followed the lab's lead. The TEAM award comes from the Federal Energy Management Program TEAM Initiative established by outgoing Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman to increase energy efficiency and conservation across the DOE complex.

The work on this ESPC project will be funded by NORESKO, considered the nation's premier energy services company. NORESKO will be repaid over roughly 17 years, using funds from documented and verified annual energy savings generated by the project for INL.

"Clearly the cost of energy is going to rise in the future," Coburn said. "It is of strategic importance that INL act now so that the future work of this laboratory will be performed in the most energy-efficient way possible, freeing additional resources to support the continuing research and infrastructure needs of the lab."

After NORESKO is fully paid, annual savings will continue to accrue at INL for several decades, Coburn noted. Among the innovative aspects of the project are two solar walls that will provide passive solar heating at two MFC buildings. On the coldest winter days, the solar wall can preheat air as much as 60 degrees Fahrenheit to replace heat lost through open doors, greatly reducing the energy required to heat buildings.

For more information about the \$33 million infrastructure upgrades, read the [news release](#).

[Feature Archive](#)



More than 60 buildings at the INL's Materials & Fuels Complex will be upgraded in the massive new infrastructure project just announced.